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Transmitted via Email

April 12, 2007

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-7-15

SUBJECT: EQIP- NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE INSTRUCTIONS

Purpose. To distribute guidance on assisting producers interested in EQIP Nutrient Management Initiative Demonstration Sites.

Expiration Date. December 30, 2007

Bulletin 300-7-9 briefly described the Minnesota Nutrient Management Initiative and contained a state map showing project area boundaries.

Attached is a table indicating producers with FY 06 EQIP Financial Assistance (FA) funding for crop year 07 demonstration projects and three producers who need FY 07 EQIP contracts developed for crop year 07 demonstration projects. Different colored highlighting on the table indicates type of Field Office action needed prior to producers applying fertilizer this spring.

1. Four FY 06 EQIP FA contracts may eventually need cancellation or items deleted.
2. Several FY 06 EQIP FA contracts may eventually need modification.
3. Four FY 06 EQIP FA participants may or may not have signed NMI agreements with NRCS at the FO level. Affected FOs should make sure these producers have "signed NMI agreements with NRCS."
4. Three FY 06 FA participants may or may not have signed NMI agreements with NRCS at the FO level and also need to have their "Anticipated Nutrient Applications" reviewed prior to fertilizer applications this spring if these producers plan on continuing in this project. FOs should immediately FAX a copy of the producers' "Anticipated Nutrient Applications" form to Jeff St. Ores for a quick review.
5. Three participants need FY 07 EQIP FA contracts developed. Use Practice Code 590 toolkit narrative MN S2. In ProTracts use the Nutrient Management Initiative fund code, associated ranking tool, and the Nutrient 2007 EQIP cost list. These applications must be ranked but will all score the same and will all be funded.

Requests for new FY 07 EQIP funded demonstration projects not shown on the table should be immediately processed. Do not process requests for FY 07 EQIP FA funding for NMI plots if "Anticipated Nutrient Applications" information cannot be FAXED to the state office by April 20, 2007.

1. Provide protocols; "Initiative Cooperator Agreement"; "Anticipated Nutrient Applications"; and other required forms to applicant. Develop EQIP contract.
2. Have participants sign agreements and EQIP contract and return "Anticipated Nutrient Applications" form to Field Office.
3. Immediately FAX "Anticipated Nutrient Applications" form to Jeff St. Ores for review. State Office Fax number: (651) 602-7914.



Additional guidance will be provided to FOs concerning follow-up responsibilities after spring fertilizer applications have occurred.

Direct all EQIP contracting questions to Sid Cornelius at (651) 602-7871.

/s/

WILLIAM HUNT
State Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: w/attachments:

ASTC (FO)

FO

ARC

APS

Tim Koehler, ASTC, St. Paul, MN

Paul Flynn, SRC, St. Paul, MN

Sid Cornelius, RC, St. Paul MN

Jeff St. Ores, WQS, St. Paul, MN

Rich Giles, Jeff King, Regional nutrient/pest management specialists